

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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HERSETH ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FOR SOUTH DAKOTA WATER PROJECTS, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Appropriations Committee Approves Funding for Joe Foss Field, Lewis & Clark, and Mni Wiconi; Bill Heads to House Floor

May 18, 2005, Washington, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth today announced that significant funding for several South Dakota priorities has passed the House Appropriations Committee. Bills passed today included funding that Herseth had requested, including more than \$37 million for South Dakota water projects – \$22 million for Mni Wiconi, \$15 million for Lewis and Clark, and \$300,000 for Mid-Dakota – and \$5.5 million for a facility and communications upgrade at Joe Foss Field.

Herseth said, “At this early, but important, stage of the Appropriations process, I am pleased to have secured Committee passage of significant funds for South Dakota priorities. The unfortunate recommendation of closure for Ellsworth Air Force Base reminds us that installation upgrades are crucial, and this \$5.5 million upgrade to Joe Foss Field is a real victory.”

Herseth continued, “I am also pleased with the more than \$37 million in funding for South Dakota water projects. While we need to do more for both Lewis and Clark and Mni Wiconi, in a time of tight budgets these significant earmarks are an important first step. The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill is \$131.7 million smaller than last year’s Energy and Water Bill. This funding provides a strong starting point, and I will work with the delegation to increase funding for these vital projects as this year’s appropriations process goes forward.”

Military Quality of Life/VA Bill

The Military Quality of Life/VA bill included Herseth’s request for a South Dakota Air National Guard Security Forces Facility and Communications Upgrade. This funding will help the Air National Guard base at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls support an adequately sized and properly configured facility to accommodate security force functions, including command, administration, pass and ID, law enforcement, arms vault with cleaning and maintenance area, classroom, training and counseling, mobility storage, mobility pallet build-up area, and locker rooms. The communications upgrade will include computer maintenance and storage, tech centers, audio visual, base communication maintenance, base services and comptroller functions. The Pentagon has recommended that Air Base receive additional F-16 fighters in the coming years.

Energy and Water Bill

The Energy and Water bill included significant funding for South Dakota water projects, including \$22 million for Mni Wiconi, \$15 million for Lewis and Clark, and \$300,000 for Mid-Dakota. The bill overall included a significant reduction in funds from last year.

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